

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSM-03 NEAE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01  
CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01  
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AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USMISSION SINAI  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
DIA WASH DC  
USCINCEUR VAHINGEN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 14380

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EG US  
SUBJECT: GAMASY TRIP TO AMERICA

SUMMARY. AHRAH HAS LONG ASSESSMENT--ALMOST CERTAINLY  
INSPIRED BY HIGHEST LEVELS OF GOE--OF GAMASY VISIT TO  
U.S. VISIT IMPORTANT NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT FIRST VISIT  
OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY COMMANDER BUT ALSO BECAUSE IT COMES  
IN WAKE OF AIRCRAFT SALE APPROVAL, WHICH ONLY BEGINNING  
OF AMERICAN "DIALOGUE" WITH EGYPT MILITARY. GAMASY CAN  
NOW SPEAK DIRECTLY TO AMERICAN LEADERSHIP TO SAY THAT  
EGYPTIAN MILITARY WANTS REALISTIC PEACE, ARMS IMBALANCE  
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IN ISRAEL'S FAVOR HINDERS NEGOTIATIONS, AND ARMY UNDER-  
STANDS ISRAEL'S SECURITY NEEDS. AUTHOR ARGUES GAMASY  
SIGNING OF FRANCE-AOI AGREEMENT IN MARCH SHOWED U.S.  
EGYPT DETERMINED TO BECOME SELF-SUFFICIENT IN ARMS.  
RESPONSIBLE EGYPTIAN MILITARY LEADERSHIP PRAISED. WHILE  
ARTICLE HOLDS OUT PROSPECT OF FRUITFUL U.S.-EGYPTIAN  
MILITARY RELATIONSHIP, IT CAUTIONS THAT ROAD "IS STILL

LONG AND DIFFICULT". END SUMMARY.

1. SIGNIFICANCE OF GAMASY VISIT. AGAINST BACKDROP OF GAMASY'S ARRIVAL IN U.S. AHRAM JUNE 6 HAS LONG ARTICLE BY DR. ALI EL SAMMAN, CHIEF OF MENA PARIS OFFICE, WHICH ALMOST CERTAINLY INSPIRED BY GAMASY HIMSELF. SAMMAN SEES VISIT AS "EXTREMELY IMPORTANT" NOT ONLY BECAUSE IT FIRST VISIT OF COMMANDER OF EGYPTIAN ARMY, BUT BECAUSE IT COMES AFTER CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF AIRCRAFT SALE WHICH RESULT OF SADAT'S INITIATIVE. AMERICAN MILITARY AND POLITICAL LEADERS NOW ABLE TO HEAR GAMASY DESCRIBE (A) HOW STRENGTHENING EGYPTIAN MILITARY AIMS AT REACHING A "REALISTIC PEACE" FOLLOWING LIBERATION OF TERRITORY; (B) HOW "MILITARY IMBALANCE" IN ISRAEL'S FAVOR DOES NOT SERVE PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS; AND (C) HOW EGYPTIAN ARMY UNDERSTANDS ISRAEL'S SECURITY NEEDS. GAMASY CAN ALSO CLARIFY THAT ARABS HAVE OTHER SECURITY REQUIREMENTS, AS EVIDENCED BY MEETING IN PARIS TO DISCUSS MEANS OF PROTECTING AFRICA FROM INSTABILITY. SAMMAN PLAYS UP SIGNIFICANCE OF F-5 SALE BY CITING AN AMERICAN GENERAL WHO REPORTEDLY SAID THIS ONLY BEGINNING OF AMERICAN "DIALOGUE" WITH EGYPTIAN MILITARY. ARTICLE ADDS GAMASY SUPPOSEDLY TO SEE BRZEZINSKI ON THURSDAY, AS WELL AS MEET WHITE HOUSE AND SENATE REPRESENTATIVES.

2. SIGNIFICANCE OF FRENCH-EGYPTIAN COOPERATION. SAMMAN  
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DESCRIBES AGREEMENT GAMASY SIGNED IN PARIS LAST MARCH AS "IMPORTANT" AND SAYS IT WAS INTERPRETED BY U.S. THAT EGYPT WANTS TO BECOME IN THE LONG RUN SELF-SUFFICIENT IN ARMS FOR HERSELF AND TO SUPPLY OTHER ARAB COUNTRIES. SAMMAN SAYS U.S. PAID CLOSE ATTENTION TO GAMASY'S STATEMENT, AFTER PASSAGE OF AIRCRAFT PACKAGE, THAT MIRAGE WOULD BE "BACKBONE" OF EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE. RESULTS OF GAMASY VISIT TO PARIS SURPASSED GAMASY'S POLITICAL AND MILITARY EXPECTATIONS, BUT GAMASY CONCEALED THIS WHEN HE MET WITH PRESS AFTER TALKS WITH GISCARD D'ESTAING.

3. RESPONSIBLE EGYPTIAN MILITARY COMMAND. RESULT OF FRENCH STUDY SHOWS THAT EGYPTIAN ARMY COMMAND APPLIES A SPIRIT OF HEALTHY RATIONALIZATION WHERE EXPENDITURES CONCERNED. ALTHOUGH THESE STUDIES ARE NOT MADE PUBLIC AMERICAN SOURCES ALMOST CERTAINLY INTERPRET THEM AS EVIDENCE OF VIGILANCE AND DISCIPLINE OF EGYPTIAN MILITARY COMMAND. "HOWEVER, THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF THIS PICTURE DO NOT PREVENT US FROM WARNING AGAINST INDULGING IN OPTIMISM IN THIS RESPECT FOR THE ROAD IS STILL LONG AND DIFFICULT." EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**TAGS:** OVIP, PGOV, EG, US, (AL-GAMASY, MUHAMMAD ABD AL-GHANI)  
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